

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claims 1 and 3; and adds new Claims 9-15. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for new Claim 9 is found in the specification at least at page 37, lines 7-9. Support for new Claim 10 is found in the specification at least at page 49, lines 15-18. Support for new Claim 11 is found in the specification at least at page 68, lines 23-24. Support for new Claims 12-13 is found in the specification at least at page 70, line 16 to page 71, line 1. Support for new Claims 14-15 is found in the specification at least at page 72, line 15 to page 73, line 1. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 5-6 and 8-15 will be pending in this application. Claims 5 and 8 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,912,029 ("Tanaka"). Claims 1 and 3 are canceled, so the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication in the Office Action at section 3 that Claims 5-6 and 8 are allowed. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 9-15, which depend from allowed Claim 5, are also allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the AW and AX references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 16, 2006, by initialing the associated Form PTO-1449. The Office Action dated January 7, 2008, asserted "references not provided". However, Applicants did provide these references, and the Patent Office received these references from Applicants. See U.S. Patent Office's Private PAIR system.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below

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